



States spend federal COVID aid on roads, buildings, seawalls



A jogger runs along a sea wall, Monday, Sept. 26, 2022, in Miami..

Associated Press

Associated Press

Standing 14 stories tall, the Docking State Office Building is one of Kansas' largest and oldest state workplaces. It's also largely vacant, despite a prime location across from the Capitol. So Kansas officials are planning to spend \$60 million of federal pandemic relief funds to help finance its demolition and replace it with a slimmed-down, three-story building designed to host meetings and events. State officials categorized the project as a "public health service" in a report to the U.S. Treasury Department laying out their plans for the money. Though that may be a stretch, it's likely fine under the American Rescue Plan act — a sweeping law signed by President Joe Biden last year that provides broad flexibility for \$350 billion of aid to states and local governments. The aid was promoted by Democrats in Congress as an unprecedented infusion for cash-strapped govern-

ments to respond to the virus, rebuild their economies and shore up their finances. But it came as state tax revenues already were rebounding, leaving many states with record surpluses and enviable decisions about what to do with all the money. Relatively little of the federal aid has gone toward traditional public health purposes, according to an Associated Press review of reports filed by all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Significantly more has gone toward public infrastructure. States are pouring money into water, sewer and high-speed internet projects, as specifically envisioned by the law. But the AP found that they're also spending billions of dollars on roads, bridges, sidewalks, airports, rail lines and buildings at college campuses and government agencies — justifying all of it under the federal government's generous flexibility.

Continued on Page 2

National Archive with innovative project to make our cultural heritage more accessible



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States spend federal COVID aid on roads, buildings, seawalls

Continued from Front

"We didn't need it, to be quite honest," said Kansas House Appropriations Committee Chairman Troy Waymaster, referring to the \$1.6 billion the state received.

But the Docking building does need to come down, he said, and the new space for events and meetings could allow better social distancing during a COVID-19 resurgence or future pandemic.

If "the building itself could be used during a pandemic, then it somewhat justifies the use of ARPA funds for the renovation or infrastructure projects," said Waymaster, a Republican.

A Kansas preservationist group has asked a court to block the demolition, arguing that Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly's administration hasn't followed proper procedures to tear down the 65-year-old structure that was added to the National Register of Historic Places earlier this year.

"There's some wrongheaded action going on here to demolish what really is a perfectly suitable building," said Paul Post, a retired Topeka attorney and member of the Plains Modern preservationist group. All states recently were required to file annual reports with the Treasury Department detailing their progress under the American Rescue Plan. The documents show states have planned expenditures for about three-fourths of their funds, up significantly from an initial slow pace.

The Treasury asked states to classify projects in seven general categories, with 83 subcategories. It can recoup funds if it determines by the end of 2026 that spending fell outside the law's wide guidelines.

Governments reported more than \$22 billion of planned expenditures for the Treasury's infrastructure category of water, sewer and broadband. But the AP identified a total of about \$36 billion for infrastructure projects — nearly one-quarter of all planned



This photo from Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2022, shows the Robert B. Docking State Office building in Topeka, Kansas, named for a Kansas governor.

Associated Press

expenditures — when including roads, bridges, buildings and public works projects reported in other categories.

By contrast, governments reported less than \$12 billion of planned expenditures in the Treasury's public health category — even though it was broadly construed to also include such things as "community violence interventions," substance use services and COVID-19 aid to small businesses.

Some state officials may have decided not to use the relief funds for public health because they had other federal funding streams for vaccines, testing and health initiatives. For example, a separate section of the American Rescue Plan provided nearly \$8 billion for state and local health departments. But the large influx of funds may also have stirred concerns about sustainability. Though public health has historically been underfunded, "a lot of health officials have struggled to get their policymakers and their bosses to commit to hiring people for the long-

term because it's one-time money," said Dr. Georges Benjamin, executive director of the American Public Health Association.

Some states reported no public health expenditures with their discretionary American Rescue Plan funds. Those included Florida, which received the fourth largest allotment from the federal government. Florida instead devoted \$1.8 billion for highway, \$1.9 billion for water projects and more than \$2.5 billion for construction and maintenance of public buildings, including the Capitol, university facilities and K-12 schools, according to the AP's analysis.

The state's water initiatives include up to \$700 million for a grant program to fight flooding associated with climate change. The city of Miami was awarded about \$50 million for a half-dozen projects, including one that will nearly double the height of a sea wall in an area devastated by a storm surge from Hurricane Irma in 2017.

The goal of the project is "to protect the residences

and the businesses from future storm surge and sea level rise," said Sonia Brubaker, Miami's chief resilience officer.

Louisiana also listed no planned expenditures in the Treasury's public health category. But the state plans to spend \$863 million on roads and bridges, \$750 million on water and sewer infrastructure and \$27 million for improvements to the domed stadium where the New Orleans Saints play football.

Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards said the stadium subsidy was critical "to keep that venue competitive."

North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper, a Democrat, also defended \$46 million of grants to upgrade grandstands, walkways, bathrooms and infrastructure at racetracks across his state. "Motorsports are part of the fabric of North Carolina," he said earlier this year.

Alabama prisoners have sued the Treasury Department to try to stop the state from spending \$400 million on prison construction. Though the state argues

it's OK under the Treasury's flexible rules, the lawsuit contends it's a "a gross and illegal misuse" of pandemic relief funds.

A coalition of more than two dozen construction, business and local government groups is pressing Congress to grant even more leeway to use pandemic aid on transportation projects.

"Having a good infrastructure that allows us all to live and thrive" ultimately "leads back into public health," said Stan Brown, past president of the American Public Works Association.

Missouri, which has yet to categorize most of its projects, also is investing heavily in infrastructure by directing hundreds of millions of dollars to buildings at community colleges and public universities. The NextGen Precision Health initiative at the University of Missouri will get nearly \$105 million for improvements that include finishing off the fourth floor of a new building named for retiring U.S. Sen. Roy Blunt.

"A lot of this was already going to happen," although no specific timeline had been set, said university spokesperson Christian Basi. "Then COVID hits, and then ARPA funds are available. It's coincidental odd timing, but it turned out to be a very, very helpful thing for us."

Like Missouri, Utah categorized \$90 million for a new mental health research facility as a replacement of lost revenue for government services. Construction is to begin next year on the building, which will host research on suicide and the effect of social isolation on children's mental health, among other things.

The planned work aligns nicely with the intent of the federal aid, said Mark Rapaport, CEO of the Huntsman Mental Health Institute at the University of Utah.

"A lot of what we're doing is directly related to tackling issues that have been exacerbated by the pandemic itself," he said. □

GOP states sue Biden administration over student loan plan

By SEUNG MIN KIM

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Six Republican-led states are suing the Biden administration in an effort to halt its plan to forgive student loan debt for tens of millions of Americans, accusing it of overstepping its executive powers.

It's at least the second legal challenge this week to the sweeping proposal laid out by President Joe Biden in late August, when he said his administration would cancel up to \$20,000 in education debt for huge numbers of borrowers. The announcement, after months of internal deliberations and pressure from liberal activists, became immediate political fodder ahead of the November midterms while fueling arguments from conservatives about legality.

In the lawsuit, being filed Thursday in a federal court in Missouri, the Republican states argue that Biden's cancellation plan is "not remotely tailored to address the effects of the pandemic on federal student loan borrowers," as required by the 2003 federal law that the administration is using as legal justification. They point out that Biden, in an interview with CBS' "60 Minutes" this month, declared



President Joe Biden speaks during the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health, at the Ronald Reagan Building, Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2022, in Washington.

the Covid-19 pandemic over, yet is still using the ongoing health emergency to justify the wide-scale debt relief.

"It's patently unfair to saddle hard-working Americans with the loan debt of those who chose to go to college," Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge, who is leading the group, said in an interview.

She added: "The Department of Education is required, under the law, to collect the balance due on loans. And President Biden does not have the author-

ity to override that."

The states of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and South Carolina joined Arkansas in filing the lawsuit. Iowa has a Democratic attorney general, but the state's Republican governor, Kim Reynolds, signed on the state's behalf. The states argue that Missouri's loan servicer is facing a "number of ongoing financial harms" because of Biden's decision to cancel loans. Other states that joined the lawsuit argue that Biden's forgiveness plan will ultimately disrupt

revenue to state coffers.

The administration has long said it was confident the forgiveness program would survive court challenges.

"Republican officials from these six states are standing with special interests, and fighting to stop relief for borrowers buried under mountains of debt," White House spokesman Abdullah Hasan said Thursday. "The president and his administration are lawfully giving working and middle class families breathing room as they recover from the pandemic and pre-

pare to resume loan payments in January."

Biden's forgiveness program will cancel \$10,000 in student loan debt for those making less than \$125,000 or households with less than \$250,000 in income. Pell Grant recipients, who typically demonstrate more financial need, will get an additional \$10,000 in debt forgiven.

The administration also said it would extend the current pause on federal student loan repayments — put on hold near the start of the pandemic more than two years ago — once more through the end of the year.

The administration faced threats of legal challenges to its plans almost immediately, with conservative attorneys, Republican lawmakers and business-oriented groups asserting that Biden was overstepping his authority in taking such sweeping action without the assent of Congress.

Democratic lawmakers battling in tough reelection contests also distanced themselves from the student loan plan, as Republican officials called it an unfair government giveaway for relatively affluent people at the expense of those who didn't pursue higher education. □

Detroit begins demolition of blighted Packard car plant

By COREY WILLIAMS

Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Demolition of the long-vacant Packard auto plant in Detroit started Thursday as crews began tearing apart an already crumbling exterior wall of the massive structure.

A demolition claw ripped and tugged on decades-old bricks and concrete along the upper floors of the old eastside factory that for generations has been a symbol of urban blight in the Motor City.

The work follows up on a plan by Mayor Mike Duggan to start razing parts of

the 3.5 million-square-foot (0.33 million-square-meter) Packard plant complex, which Peruvian developer and owner Fernando Palazuelo failed to do after buying it in 2013.

The city called Thursday's work an "emergency demolition." The plant is among dozens of large structures that Detroit officials have identified to be torn down or renovated.

Duggan has said that some parts of complex might be saved for redevelopment. "The structure is adjacent to an operating business, and creates an imminent danger to that building, its

employees and neighborhood residents," the city said in a news release.

Detroit took over the complex in 1994 when an investor failed to pay taxes. Another company later took ownership but also would lose the property due to unpaid taxes.

Palazuelo bought the complex for \$405,000 at a tax foreclosure auction, saying then that he wanted to turn it into apartments, shops and art galleries. The development never happened. Palazuelo failed to apply for demolition permits by a court-ordered deadline earlier this year. His non-



A demolition claw begins razing part of the long-vacant Packard auto plant on Thursday, Sept. 29, 2022, in Detroit.

Associated Press

compliance allowed the city to move forward with demolition plans.

"He broke every single promise until the courts, finally, wouldn't put up with it anymore," Duggan said Thursday at the demolition

site. "He is under court order to pay for (the demolition). We certainly will go after every asset he has in America, and if we can figure out how to go after his assets in Peru, we're gonna do that, too." □

Florida health care facilities evacuate patients after Ian

By **BOBBY CAINA CALVAN**
and **ALINA HARTOUNIAN**
The Associated Press

Thousands of people were evacuated from nursing homes and hospitals across Florida on Thursday even as winds and water from Hurricane Ian began receding. Hundreds of those evacuations were taking place across the hard-hit Fort Myers region, where damage cut off potable water to at least nine hospitals.

Kristen Knapp of the Florida Health Care Association says 43 nursing homes evacuated about 3,400 residents as of Thursday morning, mostly in southwest Florida.

As many as 20 facilities had reported electricity outages, but Knapp says generators are powering those buildings. Water was shut off at some facilities, too. And one area hospital began assessing the full damage from ferocious winds that tore away parts of its roof and swamped its emergency room.

In Orlando, residents of the Avante nursing home were evacuated to ambulances and waiting buses through



Damaged homes and debris are shown in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, Thursday, Sept. 29, 2022, in Fort Myers Beach, Fla.

floodwater in a neighborhood that doesn't typically flood. Paramedics rolled out residents one by one on stretchers and wheelchairs. At the neighboring Palm Island at Baldwin apartment complex, cars were submerged in the parking lot. Even as the problem was too much water in much of the state, at least nine hos-

pitals in southwest Florida had the opposite problem. "We have one large health system in southwest Florida that is without water in all of their facilities. And so they are fast approaching a point where they will not be able to safely take care of their patients. So that is an urgent focus to get those patients transferred," said

Mary Mayhew, the president of the Florida Hospital Association.

Mayhew said more 1,200 patients were being evacuated.

Meanwhile, other hospitals could find themselves further strained, she said.

"There is considerable effort underway to rescue individuals who also will need

medical care. And to identify hospital beds available either in the region or elsewhere," she said.

Hurricane Ian swamped HCA Florida Fawcett Hospital in Port Charlotte - just north of Fort Myers - from both above and below, as the storm surge flooded its lower level emergency room while fierce winds tore part of its fourth floor roof from its intensive care unit, according to a doctor who works there.

Dr. Birgit Bodine spent the night at the hospital, anticipating the storm would make things busy, "but we didn't anticipate that the roof would blow off on the fourth floor," she said.

Water gushed down Wednesday from above onto the ICU, forcing staff to evacuate the hospital's sickest patients some of them on ventilators to other floors. Staff members resorted to towels and plastic bins to try to mop up the sodden mess.

The medium-sized hospital spans four floors, but patients were forced into just two because of the damage. □

Associated Press

Police: Oakland high school shooting wounds 6 adults

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — At least six adults were wounded in a shooting at a school campus in Oakland on Wednesday, with at least some of the victims found inside the school, au-

thorities said. The shooting took place around 12:45 p.m. at Rudsdale Newcomer High School, authorities said. The school serves recent immigrants ages 16-21 who

have fled violence and instability in their home countries, according to the school's website. It is one of four adjacent schools located on a block in east Oakland.

Officials have not said whether any of the victims might be students age 18 or older.

"The victims were affiliated with the school, and we are determining the affiliation at this time," Oakland Assistant Police Chief Darren Allison said, although he declined to say whether any students or teachers were involved.

Allison said police were seeking at least one suspect but did not have anyone in custody.

Three of the wounded were taken to Highland Hospital in Oakland, while the other three were taken

to Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley. Allison said three people remained hospitalized Wednesday evening, two of them with life-threatening injuries, while one person had been released and two others were expected to be released soon.

John Sasaki, a spokesperson for Oakland Unified School District, said in a statement that district officials "do not have any information beyond what Oakland Police are reporting."

He said counselors were being made available for students and he could not say whether the schools at the site would be open Thursday.

Television footage showed dozens of police cars and yellow tape on the street outside the school and stu-

dents leaving nearby campuses.

City Council Member Treva Reid said investigators told her the shooting may be tied to rising "group and gang violence."

James Jackson, chief executive of Alameda Health System, also noted an increase in violence.

"We've seen almost a doubling of the violent crimes victims that we're seeing here at our facility (Highland Hospital). So something has changed," Jackson said.

City Council Member Loren Taylor, who was outside the school, declined to confirm any details about the incident, telling KTVU-TV, "Guns were on our school campuses where our babies were supposed to be protected." □



A California Highway Patrol officer lifts police tape to let parents and students leave a cordoned off area on Fountain Street following a shooting at a school campus in Oakland, Calif., on Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2022.

Associated Press

U.S. candidate to lead UN telecoms agency after U.S.-Russia race

By **STEPHEN McGRATH** and
JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)

— Doreen Bogdan-Martin of the United States was elected Thursday to head the U.N.'s telecommunications agency, winning a U.S.-Russia face-off for the leadership of a global agency that sets guidelines for radio, internet, satellite and television communications.

Envoys from the 193 member states of the Geneva-based International Telecommunications Union selected Bogdan-Martin over lone rival Rashid Ismailov of Russia, ending a contest that was largely overshadowed by geopolitics in the wake of Russia's war in Ukraine.

Members of the agency's policy-making body meeting in Romania's capital voted 139-25 with a number of abstentions in favor of naming the first woman as ITU secretary-general and the first American to hold the post since the 1960s.

Bogdan-Martin, who will



Doreen Bogdan-Martin of the United States, candidate for secretary general, smiles during the opening session of The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies, in Bucharest, Romania, Monday, Sept. 26, 2022.

begin her four-year term as ITU secretary-general on Jan. 1, is a 29-year ITU veteran and the current director of its telecommunication development bureau. Her career began in the U.S. Commerce Department. Speaking in the plenary hall

in Bucharest after her election, Bogdan-Martin described the leadership position as "an immensely important position" and said it will be an "honor for me and my country" to lead the organization.

"I hope this day will be an

inspiration for other women to follow," she said. "We need to deliver affordable, trusted, and meaningful connectivity to all. Universal connectivity has been a dream for far too many years let's unite and make it real."

Associated Press

Ismailov, 57, is a former deputy telecommunications minister in Russia and a former executive in telecom companies such as Ericsson, Nokia and Huawei. Before Thursday's vote, both candidates touted expanding connectivity to the internet and the benefits of information and communication technology, or ICT, to roughly half the world that still has no access.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, alluding to the Biden administration's support for Bogdan-Martin, hailed a broad international endorsement of her vision for "universal connectivity, digital empowerment, and leadership at the ITU that is innovative, collaborative, and inclusive."

"We have made clear since the earliest days of the administration that American leadership in multilateral venues, including the United Nations, is crucial to ensuring the international community is best positioned to address our shared challenges," Blinken said. □

Report: 200 environmental activists killed globally in 2021

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Some 200 environmental and land defense activists were killed around the world in 2021, including some 54 in Mexico, which assumed the position of the deadliest country in the annual report by nongovernmental organization Global Witness.

More than three-quarters of the killings took place in Latin America, where Colombia, Brazil and Nicaragua also logged double-digit death tolls.

It was the third consecutive year of increases for Mexico and a jump from 30 such activists killed in 2020.

"Most of these crimes happen in places that are far away from power and are inflicted on those with, in many ways, the least amount of power," the report said.

Global Witness considers

its report a baseline, noting "Our data on killings is likely to be an underestimate, given that many murders go unreported, particularly in rural areas and in particular countries."

The victims died fighting resource exploitation and in land disputes. Conflicts over mining were tied to 27 deaths worldwide, the most for any sector.

Fifteen of those mining-related killings were in Mexico. In the western Mexico state of Jalisco, José Santos Isaac Chávez was killed in April 2021. He was running for local office and had made opposition to a long-running mine a central part of his campaign. Days before the election, he was found dead in his car, which had been driven off a cliff and his body showed evidence of torture. Armed men had dragged him out

of his home and driven him away in his own vehicle.

In April 2021, Sandra Liliana Peña Chocué, an Indigenous governor in southwest Colombia, who had fought for the eradication of coca crops in Caldonio, Cauca was killed near her home by armed men. Her murder was condemned by the United Nations, nongovernmental organizations and foreign governments.

Overall, killings of environmental activists in Colombia dropped in 2021 to 33 from 65 the year before. The Philippines saw fewer such killings in 2021 too, 19 compared to 30 in 2020.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, all eight recorded victims were killed inside Virunga National Park.

In November, conservation park ranger Chief Brigadier Etienne Mutazimiza Kanyaruchinya, 48, was killed

when 100 heavily armed men, presumed to be former members of the M23 rebel group, attacked a patrol post near the village of Bukima in Congo's North Kivu Province.

Virunga Park is home to some of the world's last

mountain gorillas, but armed groups such as the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, known by its French acronym FDLR, the Mai-Mai and the M23 regularly vie for control of eastern Congo's natural resources. □



A Yaqui Indigenous wears a bandana over his mouth as he walks through dust past the cemetery where slain water-defense leader Tomás Rojo is buried in Potam, Mexico, Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2022.

Associated Press

NATO believes Baltic Sea gas leaks were sabotage

By JAN M. OLSEN

Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — The NATO military alliance warned Thursday it would retaliate for any attacks on the critical infrastructure of its 30 member countries and joined other Western officials in citing sabotage as the likely cause of damage to two natural gas pipelines in the Baltic Sea.

The warning came as the Swedish coast guard confirmed a fourth leak on the pipelines off southern Sweden, which is in the process of joining NATO. The first leaks in the pipelines that extend from Russia to Germany were reported on Tuesday, prompting energy companies and European governments to beef up security.

The fear of further damage to Europe's energy infrastructure has added pressure on natural gas prices, which had already been soaring. Russia, a major supplier to Europe, cut off deliveries earlier this year in retaliation for sanctions imposed after its invasion of Ukraine. That has caused widespread economic pain across the continent. NATO ambassadors said in a statement that "any deliberate attack against



In this picture provided by Swedish Coast Guard, the gas leak in the Baltic Sea from Nord Stream photographed from the Coast Guard's aircraft on Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2022.

Associated Press

allies' critical infrastructure would be met with a united and determined response." They refrained from saying who they thought was responsible, even though some allies like Poland, and many experts, have said they believe that Russia is responsible.

"All currently available information indicates that this is the result of deliberate, reckless, and irresponsible acts of sabotage. These leaks are causing risks to shipping and substantial environmental damage," the envoys said.

The rising tensions around

energy security in Europe come as Russia prepares to annex four regions of occupied Ukraine, a move widely condemned by the West. Russian energy giant Gazprom heightened uncertainty around energy supplies Wednesday by threatening on Twitter to cease dealing with a Ukrainian company that controls one of the two remaining pipelines that ship Russian gas to Europe.

Rather than assigning blame to anyone specific, EU officials on Thursday said they would await the outcome of an investigation,

which probably will not start in earnest until next week once the undersea pipelines are empty.

The two lines between Russia and Germany were not in operation.

Danish Defense Minister Morten Bødskov turned to Twitter to call the NATO statement a "joint condemnation and very strong signal from the alliance." But NATO has made many statements of resolve to defend its members and their territory since Russia invaded Ukraine in February. Two of the leaks are on the Nord Stream 1 pipeline

that Russia recently turned off as it ramped up energy pressure on Europe. The other two are on Nord Stream 2, which has never been used. The Danish and Swedish governments have said that they believe the leaks were "deliberate actions."

According to seismologists, the leaks were preceded by explosions. A first explosion was recorded early Monday southeast of the Danish island of Bornholm. A second, stronger blast northeast of the island that night was equivalent to a magnitude-2.3 earthquake. Seismic stations in Denmark, Norway and Finland also registered the explosions.

Speaking Wednesday before the fourth leak was reported, Swedish Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson said it would have taken a large explosive device to cause the damage.

Norway was among the first countries on Wednesday to beef up the protection of its energy installations. Finnish Finance Minister Annika Saarikko said Thursday that security measures have been tightened around the Balticconnector line running in the Baltic Sea between Finland and Estonia. □

India's top court gives equal abortion access to all women

By BHUMIKA SARASWATI

Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — India's

Supreme Court ruled on Thursday that all women, regardless of marital status,

can obtain abortions up to 24 weeks into their pregnancies. Previously, under India's abortion law, married women could have abortions up to 24 weeks into their pregnancies, but single women were limited to 20 weeks. On Thursday, the court extended the 24-week period to all women. The judgment was cheered by reproductive rights activists, who said the court had ensured that the law does not discriminate and expands the right to safe and legal abortions to single women. "Now, all the rights that married women have, single women will also have," said Aparna Chandra, an associate professor of law at the Na-

tional Law School of India, who works on reproductive justice. In its judgment, the court "breaks away from the stigma that is attached to single women getting pregnant," she said.

Abortion has been legal in India since 1971 under the Medical Termination Pregnancy Act. In 2021, the law was amended to allow certain categories of women -- including married women who were divorced or widowed, minors, rape victims or mentally ill women -- to obtain abortions up to 24 weeks, raising it from the previous 20 weeks. But the changes did not include single women, causing many to question why the law differentiated on the

basis of marital status.

"The artificial distinction between married and unmarried women cannot be sustained. Women must have autonomy to have free exercise of these rights," Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud said.

The court said denying single women the same access to abortion violated the right to equality before the law under India's Constitution.

Abortion rights have been a contentious issue across the world, especially after the U.S. Supreme Court in June overturned the Roe v. Wade judgment which had established a constitutional right to abortion in the country. □



Pigeons fly past the dome of India's Supreme Court building in New Delhi, India, Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2016. India's Supreme Court ruled on Thursday, Sept. 29, 2022, that all women, regardless of marital status, can obtain abortions up to 24 weeks into their pregnancies.

Associated Press

National Archive with innovative project to make our cultural heritage more accessible



ORANJESTAD – On the 28th of September, which is the International Day of Access to Information, the minister of Culture, Xiomara Maduro attended a presentation of the National Archive of Aruba (ANA) together with the National Library (BNA), during which an explanation was given on the work that is being done in order to preserve our cultural heritage.

This regarded a project to restore, digitalize and make the Colonial Archive for the period 1816-1939 in Aruba digitally accessible.

With help from different funds, including from Mondriaanfonds, ANA has been working on this project, which tells a part of the history of Aruba that is not well known. ANA used modern techniques to digitalize the colonial archive, like Optical Character Recognition (OCR) and Handwritten Text Recognition (HTR), that greatly facilitate the process of searching for information.

With this advance, the user – for example, local students working on a thesis on the history of Aruba – can have fast access to this

necessary information. It is very important to know the history of Aruba, since it helps us understand our present and positions our future. Every effort to preserve, restore and archive historical documents is extremely valuable for the collective memory of our country. This project by ANA is innovative and at the same time provides us with information about our past, making this information digitally accessible on the internet for everyone who is interested in knowing more about our history. In this way, ANA helps to



make valuable information more accessible.

Minister Maduro thanked the staff at ANA, BNA, Mon-

driaanfonds and every other organization that made funds available to make this important project a reality. □

Preparations underway for the Month for Older Persons

ORANJESTAD – The ministry of Older Persons Affairs is in the middle of preparations for the launch of Directie Ouderenzaken – the Department for Older Persons Affairs. The goal is to centralize all efforts to improve the response to the variety of challenges faced by the 60+ community. It will also ensure to increase accessibility to services for care, and to stimulate participation and wellbeing of our older persons.

During the past weeks different meetings were held and visits were paid to stakeholders to present the policy for older persons. Minister of Older Persons Affairs, Mr. Ursell Arends elaborated on his vision, which is directed on optimizing participation in the community, in a wide sense.

On Wednesday the 21st of



September he visited Fundashon Hospice Atardi and Stichting Thuiszorg Aruba (STA), where he received a tour of the installations as well as information on the service offered by each of these organizations. Hospice Atardi is specialized in palliative care, 24/7 for people in the last stage of their life. A place to alleviate suffering with respect for the privacy of the guest and where family can also

visit, care in a home environment. STA currently has 27 clients and they showed they are focused on continuous improvement of the quality of care offered to our older persons.

“Once we have a family member in a care home, it's up to us as family to visit them, take care of them and continue giving them the love that they deserve”, minister Arends expressed.

During a meeting with the Organization of Public Pensioners Aruba (OPPA), they brought forward different points of concern, among others, accessibility for wheelchairs, funds for activities and control at care homes.

Arends informed them about a pilot project currently ongoing in the care homes to ensure quality of service. This project was presented to the groups in charge of these institutions

on Monday 12th of September. The minister is also in conversation with Horacio Oduber Hospital to give the care homes access to a geriatric doctor.

Regarding funds for activities, the Government of Aruba invested in the project “Safe Barrios” to allocate more funds to neighborhood organizations to organize more activities. This includes activities for our older persons to stimulate positive participation. □






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PALM BEACH, ARUBA – Radisson Blu Aruba, located in Palm Beach, celebrated the soft opening of its new Peruvian pop-up restaurant last week. The unique and stylish Blu Bar: A Peruvian-inspired restaurant that offers everything that you love about Peruvian fusion cuisine, but with a modern twist.

Diners can expect to find many seafood-centric dishes including popular Peruvian eats such as Ceviches and Tiraditos. Some of the highlights from the dinner menu include mouthwatering dishes such as the team's favorite: cowboy pork glazed with blackberries jam served with 'fufu', local fish on a sugar snap peas puree, NY strip with Peruvian chimichurri, and 8 hours slow-cooked beef brisket; all dishes enhanced by a modern twist on flavors and presentation. The Executive chef and his team are clearly dedicated to making you come back presenting you tasty appetizers or full entrée offerings.



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On their 37th trip to Aruba, Marie and Norm Whelan celebrating 60th wedding anniversary



Yesterday we met the wonderful Marie and Norm Whelan, who were visiting with a group of friends and family to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. They shared with us their secret to a happy marriage and their love for Aruba.

Marie and Norm Whelan surely know the secret to forging and nurturing life-long relationships.

Marie said they have been coming to Aruba for around 37 years, before they bought a time-share. They love everything about Aruba and have made it their second home, coming with their families – as the families grow and bring new members – as well as a network of friends they have



made while on the island. On this visit, they were also traveling with the bridesmaid from their wedding!


And from the beginning, they have built a great friendship with Linda Brokker from the Renaissance hotel, with whom they have shared important moments during the past three decades of coming to Aruba.

Marie told us she has celebrated many anniversaries in Aruba, as it has become a kind of tradition.

As for the secret to a successful marriage? "Say: yes dear!" ☐



Pinchos Grill & Bar

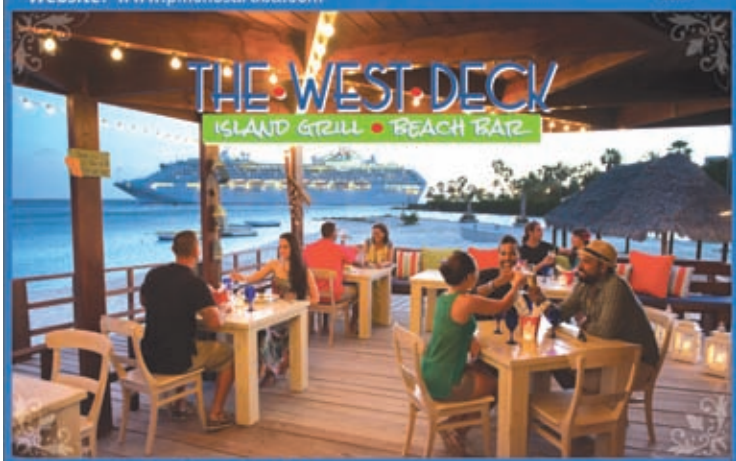


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Travellers' Choice


Create museum memories

ORANJESTAD — Museums are an integral part of conserving and honoring cultures, and Aruba is no exception. Our Island has a wide selection of various museums for our locals and visitors to see. Take this opportunity to learn about our island and experience a different day beyond the beach. Let us introduce to you the these locations.

Museum of Industry Aruba

Museum of Industry in San Nicolas, better known as the art capital of Aruba. This museum presents the history of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated displays and multimedia installations.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. The Water Tower was built in 1939 and consists of three sections: the substructure, the high-rising vertical shaft, and the tank at the top. The Water Tower was purchased by the Monuments fund in 2003 so it could be restored and preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Mu-

seum of Industry is part of Fundacion Museo Arubano (FMA), which is a foundation set to maintain, preserve, and protect the Aruban culture sector, history, and nature. The museum of Industry is open daily from 9 am till 1 pm.

For more information check out their Facebook page Museum of Industry Aruba.

Archaeological Museum of Aruba

The Archaeological Museum of Aruba is located at Schelpstraat 42 in downtown Oranjestad. The renovated historic Ecury complex in downtown Oranjestad has been transformed from a family home to a modern museum that preserves Aruba's Amerindian cultural heritage. This 21st century museum is especially designed to preserve valuable artifacts dating back to the Pre-Ceramic period of 2500 BC.

In the late 1980's AMA identified its need for an adequate housing for its collection and activities. After studying various options, a project proposal was drawn up, including the acquisition and restora-

tion of historical buildings in downtown Oranjestad.

These historical buildings were formerly the property of the Ecury family. The "Ecury Complex", is a cluster of single and two-story historic buildings, mainly Dutch colonial architecture from the late 19th and 20th century on a plot of approximately 1.700 m2.

In 1997 the Aruban Government bought the complex for the National Archaeological Museum project. In 2004 a financial agreement was signed with the European Development Fund and in 2006 restoration and construction work began on the monumental buildings and the new to build exhibition space. In December 2007 the key to the complex was delivered and the museum's employees moved to the new location. The final design for the exhibit was completed in November 2007 and the permanent exhibit, financed by the Aruban Government and the Union of Cultural Organizations (UNOCA), opened in July 2009.

At the new location the



National Archaeological Museum Aruba disposes of approximately 500 m2 for its permanent exhibit. This exhibit conveys through archaeological objects and modern exhibition techniques information on the origin and culture of the first inhabitants of the island. The new permanent exhibit gives the visitor an insight into the cultures that inhabited the island in Pre-

Historical and Early Historical times. The museum also hosts an attractive public program including lectures, educational projects, temporary exhibits and workshops.

The museum is open daily from 9:30 am till 4:30 pm.

For more information check out the Facebook page Museo Arqueologico Nacional Aruba. □

Can I have a ..., please?



ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change?? How about a different breakfast from what you are used to at your hotel. Hop in your car, drive around and anywhere around the island you will come across a local snack shop.

Here you will find all types of snacks loved by the locals. Try apastechi, a Caribbean pastry filled with cheese or meat and fried up deliciously.

Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, a crusty little meat ball. A dedito is also a good option, it's a stick made out of cheese or hot-dog. If you want to try something more familiar go for a homemade hamburger or a ham and cheese toast, but with a local touch. All these snacks are ridiculously addictive.

Freshen up with a delicious fruit shake (bati-do) made out of watermelon, strawberry, banana, papaya or just mix any fruit together. What makes these little snack shops more attractive is the warmth of its people and with the smile you are being served. □

The government of Aruba signed an agreement with CEDE Aruba in connection with the 'Safe Barrios' project



Oranjestad - On September 25, 2022, during an information fair organized by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Justice, the government of Aruba signed an agreement with CEDE Aruba.

The objective is to improve our community centers and the quality of life of the community members.

The Minister of Justice and Social Affairs, Mr. Rocco Tjon, indicated that it is essential to ensure that all stakeholders also have input to elevate the neighborhood's security.

During this event, the government of Aruba signed the addendum with CEDE Aruba to launch the Safe barrios project, which entails three pillars:



The three pillars are:
Creation of awareness and responsibility among all stakeholders and ensure their participation;
improve infrastructure in the neighborhoods that are also safe for the children;
security – they approved the street lighting project for San Nicolas, where they will install 198 extra light points.

he signing of the addendum with CEDE Aruba will give meaning to these three pillars, where the government will ensure that all community centers get more funding. In this case, CEDE Aruba and Aruba pledged about 2 million florins for more activities in the community centers.

It will offer our youth more opportunities to participate

in sports, arts and crafts, music, and educational programs. Minister Tjon is thankful for the support of the Minister of Integrity, Nature, Transport, and Elderly Care, Ursell Arends, for the programs for the elderly and the Minister of Sports and Education, Endy Croes, for the sports and educational programs, and Prime Minister Evelyn Wever-Croes. □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 36 Sawyer's

1 Unexciting creator

5 Splinter 38 Caller's group need

9 Spring 39 Light sign lunch

11 Friend of 40 Ceases d'Artagnan 41 Depend

13 Particular DOWN

14 Low noble 1 Spanish

15 Pipe waste 2 Out of

16 Soup cracker bed

18 Mariners' home 3 Batman

20 Polite address 4 "It's a

21 Stairway post 5 Black

22 Proofing note 6 Coup

23 Hurried flight 25 Carry on

24 "— Mir Bist Du Schön"

25 Invites 27 Sport

27 Sport fishes 29 Horse-

29 Horse-shoe shape

30 Sidekick 32 Brewing

32 Brewing items 34 Bikini top

34 Bikini top 35 Say

CASH NAOMI
ARIEL AKRON
BERRA SOILS
ONE WRANGLE
TANGLE AIR
PEDI MET
ROSS SKIS
PAC SORE
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SPANGLER REX
TONAL LEAVE
ARISE INTER
STATE DELT

Yesterday's answer

7 Batman 26 Be quietly

8 Canadian 27 Price

10 Method 28 Continuing

12 Hägar's story

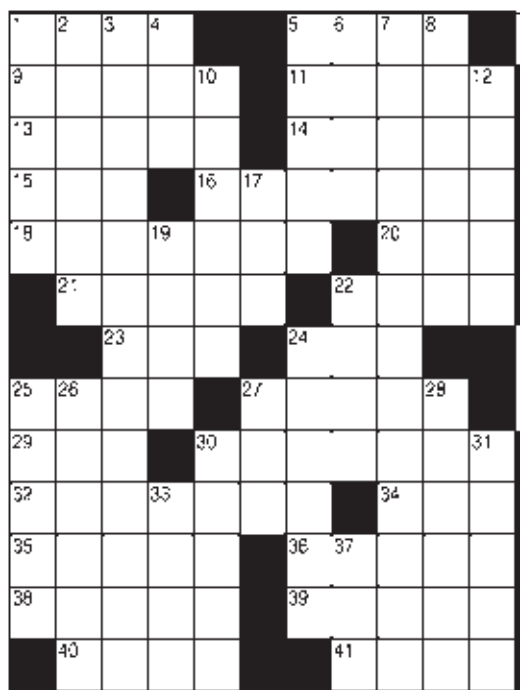
17 Utterly 30 Trims

19 "— Travis

22 Posted 37 Simple

24 Explodes card

25 Carry on game



9-30

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three I's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

9-30

CRYPTOQUOTE

R D M P K Z S T W P P W P M V U Q P M P

V T C L T. S P Y G T T G P P W P M O T I P

Y T V T C U A Y Q T C Y S P K W A G L

Q K D D A P M. — I T Y Q P M Y P M P R K

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I LIKE COFFEE BECAUSE IT GIVES ME THE ILLUSION THAT I MIGHT BE AWAKE. — LEWIS BLACK

EXPLAINER: How do we know when a recession has begun?

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The economy shrank in the first half of this year, the government confirmed in a report Thursday, underscoring fears of a broad-based slowdown that could lead to a recession. At the same time, the number of people seeking unemployment benefits a figure that often reflects the pace of layoffs fell to a five-month low. The drop suggests that companies are holding onto their staffs, despite the slowdown in growth, and that those who do get laid off are quickly finding new jobs. Hiring remains strong and the unemployment rate is near a 50-year low. Given the strength of the job market, few economists think we are in a recession now. With consumers managing to keep spending and the trade deficit narrowing, economists expect the economy grew albeit slowly in the July-September quarter.

Six months of contraction is a long-held informal definition of a recession. Yet nothing is simple in a post-pandemic economy in which growth is negative but the job market strong. The economy's direction has confounded the Federal Reserve's policymakers and many private economists since growth screeched to a halt in March 2020 as COVID-19 struck and 22 million Americans were suddenly thrown out of work. Inflation, meantime, remains near its highest level in four decades, though gas costs and other prices have eased in recent weeks. Inflation is still so high that despite pay raises many workers have received, Americans' purchasing power is eroding. The pain is being felt disproportionately by lower-income and Black and Hispanic households, many of whom are struggling to pay for essentials like food, clothes, and rent. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell has underscored that the central



Fresh seafood is shown for sale at a grocery store, Wednesday, July 27, 2022, in Surfside, Fla.

Associated Press

bank will raise its key interest rate as high as needed to wrestle inflation back down to its 2% target. Powell and other officials have signaled they will do so even if a recession results. So how, exactly, do we know when an economy is in recession? Here are some answers to such questions:

WHO DECIDES WHEN A RECESSION HAS STARTED?

Recessions are officially declared by the obscure-sounding National Bureau of Economic Research, a group of economists whose Business Cycle Dating Committee defines a recession as "a significant decline in economic activity that is spread across the economy and lasts more than a few months."

The committee considers trends in hiring as a key measure in determining recessions. It also assesses many other data points, including gauges of income, employment, inflation-adjusted spending, retail sales and factory output. It puts heavy weight on jobs and a gauge of inflation-adjusted income that excludes government support payments like Social Security. Yet the NBER typically doesn't declare a recession until well after one has begun, sometimes for up to a year.

DO TWO STRAIGHT QUARTERS OF ECONOMIC CONTRACTION EQUAL A RECESSION?

That's a common rule of thumb, but it isn't an official

definition.

Still, in the past, it has been a useful measure. Michael Strain, an economist at the right-leaning American Enterprise Institute, has noted that in each of the past 10 times that the economy shrank for two consecutive quarters, a recession has resulted.

At the same time, job growth remains strong and consumers are still opening their wallets and spending more, trends that rarely occur during recessions.

DON'T A LOT OF PEOPLE THINK A RECESSION IS COMING?

Yes, because many people now feel more financially burdened. With wage gains trailing inflation for most people, higher prices have eroded Americans' spending power.

Walmart has reported that higher gas and food costs have forced its shoppers to reduce their purchases of discretionary spending such as new clothing, a clear sign that consumer spending, the leading driver of the economy, is weakening. The nation's largest retailer, Walmart has reduced its profit outlook and said it would have to discount more items like furniture and electronics. And the Fed's rate hikes have helped send the average 30-year fixed mortgage rate surging above 6%, compared with below 3% a year ago, thereby making homebuying increasingly unaffordable.

Salt water creeps toward New Orleans up Mississippi River

By JANET McCONNAUGHEY
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Drought upriver has left the Mississippi River so low and slow that salt water is creeping farther than usual along the bottom toward New Orleans and threatening drinking water, the Army Corps of Engineers said Wednesday.

The Corps plans an underwater levee to block the wedge of heavier salt water before it can get into two of the four water treatment plants in Plaquemines Parish, south of New Orleans, officials said in a news conference posted on YouTube.

The structure, called a sill, could be as tall as 45 feet (13.7 meters), which would bring its top high enough to interfere with the extra-large ships the river was recently dredged to accommodate, said Heath Jones, the New Orleans Corps office's emergency management director.

The Corps said deepening the river also lets the annual saltwater intrusion grow bigger and last longer, The Times-Picayune/The New Orleans Advocate reported. Salt already in the river's lowest stretch could affect the taste, smell and color of drinking water but is not a general health threat, the Plaquemines Parish government said in an advisory Wednesday. Sodium levels are above those recommended for drinking water for people on very low-sodium diets,



A barge powers its way up the Mississippi River on Nov. 16, 2012, in St. Louis.

Associated Press

so people on such diets or on dialysis should check with their doctors, it said.

Two reverse-osmosis machines should arrive Friday to remove salt from the water at the two treatment plants that are below the planned sill, parish President Kirk Lepine said at the Corps' news conference.

He said those plants each process about 1 million gallons (3.8 million liters) a day, compared with 6 million gallons (22.7 million liters) a day at the main plant in Belle Chasse, just outside Drought farther up the Mississippi and its tributaries is why the river has remained so low, Corps spokesperson

Matt Roe said in an email. The river is deeper than the Gulf of Mexico almost to Natchez, Mississippi, and about every 10 years it becomes too slow to keep salt water away from the New Orleans area, Jones said.

When the river gets higher and stronger, he said, the current will both push back the salt water and push down the sill.

Jones said the structure will be about where a sill was created from dredged sediment in 2012. The bottom there didn't need to be dredged for ships with hulls that can extend 50 feet (15.2 meters) below

the surface, because it was already 90 feet (27.43 meters) feet below sea level, he said.

Previous sills were made in 1988 and 1999, the Corps said in a news release. □

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Network nightly newscasts morph, adapt for the streaming age

By **DAVID BAUDER**
AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — For more than half a century, ABC, CBS and NBC have aired evening newscasts each weeknight on television. This fall, the competition has spread to another medium.

The launch of John Dickerson's "CBS News Prime Time" in September means that all three news divisions have unique streaming newscasts at night, a nod to the future and bid to reach young people who aren't watching television at dinnertime.

Dickerson's newscast debuted nearly a year after NBC's "Top Story" with Tom Llamas. ABC's "Live Prime" with Linsey Davis started in February 2020. Each streams live for at least an hour starting at 7 p.m. Eastern and are repeated later in the evening. All can be seen for free.

"The revolution will not be televised," Davis quipped. "It will be streamed."

She and her rivals have big ambitions.

"We want to be the best news show, period," Llamas said. "I don't want to be just the best show on streaming."

Looking past the similarities, they each have intriguing differences in approach, more so than the broadcast evening news shows led by Lester Holt, David



This combination of photos shows, from left, Tom Llamas, host of "Top Story with Tom Llamas," Linsey Davis on the set of "ABC News Live Prime with Linsey Davis," and John Dickerson, host of "CBS News Prime Time with John Dickerson."

Associated Press

Muir and Norah O'Donnell. Network news divisions aren't looking to replace the television broadcasts, which usually reach around 20 million people combined every night, more during cold weather months. The streamcasts almost certainly don't approach those numbers, although if anyone knows for sure how many people are watching, they aren't telling. There isn't a single outside source that measures audience size, like the Nielsen company does for TV. The networks all say the shows are catching on, but won't share their own statistics with competitors or the public often a sign that those levels are low.

Dickerson brings the most broadcast experience to

his role, having reported for "60 Minutes," moderated "Face the Nation" and hosted "CBS This Morning." At its launch, his streamcast quickly distinguished itself as the most interview-heavy of the three. He will debrief CBS News reporters who have done television stories to empty their notebooks of additional details, and find experts for conversations on the day's major stories.

"I'm interested in who the person is who may not even be known, but knows what is going on," Dickerson said. "It's great to be able to ask the experts yourself, whether the experts are within CBS or not."

Probing with experts to tell people more about stories they may have seen flash

by in headlines leans into Dickerson's strength as a journalist, said Anthony Gallo, CBS News Streaming senior vice president.

The most established streamcast, ABC's "Live Prime," takes advantage of what streaming has to offer over television right now: time. Davis' show is most apt to stretch reports beyond what can be seen on TV's "World News Tonight." After Muir traveled to Ukraine, the streaming show gave him 10 minutes to report on what happened in a village recently liberated from the Russians. That kind of length is a luxury seldom afforded on television evening news programs that have roughly 22 minutes of news between commercials.

A profile of the jam band O.A.R. stretched like a guitar solo, and correspondent Phil Lipof even went onstage to play with the band.

"Live Prime" airs for an hour and a half, although the last half hour is largely a shortened summary of what had been on before. The CBS and NBC shows are an hour.

Internal research shows that "Live Prime" viewers appreciate the longer-form stories, more than a reliance on talking heads, said Seni Tienabeso, executive director of ABC News Live.

Getting "Live Prime" started before its rivals allowed for more research time, said Reena Mehta, ABC's senior vice president for streaming and digital content. She said it's not ABC's goal to replicate the linear television model, and the program essentially has the capacity to go live all evening. The form of these programs, though, is hardly a shock to television viewers. For NBC, Llamas packs his fast-paced show with as much information as possible.

"I believe in delivering a high story count," he said. "I think people right now are inundated with information, but they're inundated with the same type of information, the same stories. I want to find stuff that's not already out there." □

Springsteen takes on Temptations, Supremes, Four Tops

NEW YORK (AP) — Bruce Springsteen takes on the Four Tops, Temptations, Supremes, Frankie Wilson, Jimmy Ruffin and other soul legends in an album of cover songs due out next month.

The disc "Only the Strong Survive" is named for the Jimmy Butler song, among the 15 other cover songs, which will be released on Nov. 11.

"I wanted to make an album where I just sang," Springsteen said in a state-

ment. "And what better music to work with than the great American songbook of the Sixties and Seventies? I've taken my inspiration from Levi Stubbs, David Ruffin, Jimmy Ruffin, the Iceman Jerry Butler, Diana Ross, Dobie Gray and Scott Walker, among many others."

Those who've seen Springsteen perform live know that he'll frequently pull out some soul covers.

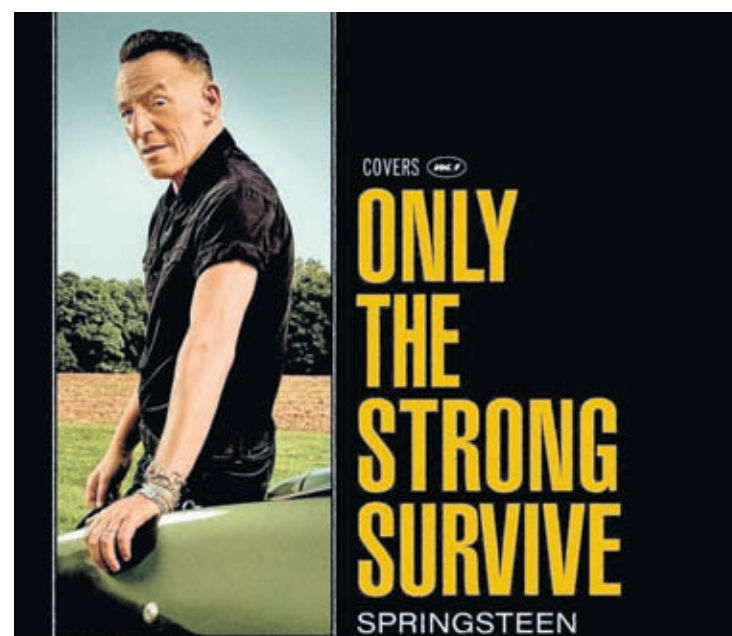
The disc arrives three months before the begin-

ning of his tour with the E Street Band.

Among the songs he tackles are the Commodores' "Nightshift," The Walker Brothers' "The Sun Ain't Gonna Shine Anymore" and the Four Tops' "When She Was My Girl."

Other covers are "I Wish it Would Rain" by The Temptations and "Someday We'll Be Together" by Diana Ross and The Supremes.

Soul legend Sam Moore sings on two of the cuts. □



This cover image released by Columbia Records shows "Only the Strong Survive" by Bruce Springsteen, releasing Nov. 11.

Associated Press

Without Griner, U.S. using versatile posts Stewart and Wilson

By **DOUG FEINBERG**
AP Basketball Writer

SYDNEY (AP) — Without Brittney Griner's 6-foot-8 presence to dominate around the basket, the U.S. women needed to figure out how to overcome her absence.

So far, so good.

The Americans have rolled through the World Cup, beating opponents by average of 44 points per game without Griner and one of the best frontcourts ever assembled in women's basketball.

Griner was sentenced to nine years in prison last month in Russia on a drug charge. President Joe Biden called the verdict in the politically charged case "unacceptable," and U.S. diplomats have been working to secure her release.

While Griner's circumstances have weighed on the team emotionally, her absence is one of many changes to the U.S. lineup. The Americans are also without 6-5 Sylvia Fowles and 6-4 Tina Charles, who retired from the team after winning several gold medals including at the Tokyo Olympics last year.

However, 6-4 Breanna Stewart and 6-5 A'ja Wilson have been able to fill the void. They are different types of post players. Both are versatile with the ability to play inside and out, and



United States' Breanna Stewart runs past Bosnia and Herzegovina's Milica Deura to shoot during their game at the women's Basketball World Cup in Sydney, Australia, Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2022. Associated Press

defend all types of players. "A'ja and I can bring them to the block or outside and that keeps the defense guessing and we have a lot of different options," Stewart said. "We know we can give them a lot of different looks."

Stewart, 28, and Wilson, 26, should give the U.S. a formidable 1-2 punch for a long time though they hope Griner will be rejoining them soon.

Wilson, who arrived Friday after celebrating the Las Vegas Aces' first WNBA championship, scored 20 points in Saturday's 77-63

win over China. She hit 15-foot jumpers and also scored in the paint against China's much taller lineup that featured 6-10 Han Xu. Stewart and Wilson also helped hold China about 40 points under what the country was averaging in the tournament.

"Stewie and I can switch defensively, which is great," Wilson said. "Don't get me wrong, BG and Syl are missed. I look around and am like, 'Where is everybody?' It's me and Stewie now. We've done this before. But yeah we're definitely different than some

of the past players."

Even without Griner, the U.S. has dominated its competition in the paint, outscoring its group opponents by an average of 36 points. The Americans are averaging 60.8 points inside the lane, including an eye-popping 94 against South Korea.

"It's insane," forward Alyssa Thomas said. "I've never seen any numbers like that. It's what we are trying to do by getting the ball inside." The U.S. didn't have as much success inside in the 88-55 quarterfinal win over Serbia, which clogged the paint and outscored the

Americans 28-26 inside.

"It's one of those things you got to live with," Wilson said. "Hopefully these next couple of games we can get back to owning the paint. Serbia did a great job of locking it down."

As well as Stewart and Wilson have played, the U.S. would love to have Griner in the lineup. The Americans decided to honor her by not having anyone wear her No. 15 jersey at the World Cup. Brionna Jones is wearing No. 16 instead.

"We'd rather have Brittney in there for sure," U.S. coach Cheryl Reeve said. "We want to put it inside as that's the strength of USA Basketball. We will continue to have the ball inside."

It's not a new strategy. The U.S. has dominated inside during World Cup play dating to the days of Lisa Leslie and Tina Thompson.

It's not just Wilson and Stewart who are contributing to the U.S. run in Sydney.

Shakira Austin had 19 points, 10 rebounds and three blocks in the win over Puerto Rico, and Brionna Jones added 15 points.

At 22, Austin is the youngest player on the team and is playing with the U.S. for the first time.

"She has such great length," Reeve said. "She's great in the paint."

Familiar praise coming from a coach about an American post player. □

Bowman is 2nd driver to suffer concussion in Next Gen car

AP Auto Racing Writer

Alex Bowman will miss Sunday's race at Talladega Superspeedway with a concussion the Hendrick Motorsports driver apparently suffered last week at Texas. HMS said Bowman was evaluated Thursday in Charlotte, North Carolina, and ruled out of this weekend's playoff race. Noah Gragson will drive the No. 48 Chevrolet for Bowman.

"I'm disappointed but know my health is the number one priority," Bowman posted on social media. "I am committed to follow all

medical guidance to ensure I can return to competition as soon as possible."

Bowman is now the second driver sidelined with a concussion suffered in a crash of NASCAR's new Next Gen car. Kurt Busch has been out since a crash July 23 in qualifying at Pocono and withdrew his spot in the 16-driver playoff field. Busch said this week he's hopeful to race before the end of the season. Bowman crashed on Lap 98 at Texas on Sunday but went on to finish the race. He finished 29th and is ranked

last among the remaining 12 playoff drivers. The field will be cut to eight after next week's race in Charlotte. NASCAR this year introduced its Next Gen car that was designed to cut costs and level the playing field, but the safety of the spec car has been under fire since Busch's crash. Drivers have complained they feel the impact much more in crashes than they did in the old car, and a rash of blown tires and broken parts has plagued the first four races of the playoffs. □



Alex Bowman (48) drives during the NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth, Texas, Sunday, Sept. 25, 2022.

Associated Press

White Sox stop 8-game losing streak with 4-3 win vs. Twins



Chicago White Sox starting pitcher Lucas Giolito delivers during the second inning of a baseball game against the Minnesota Twins, Thursday, Sept. 29, 2022, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

By **DAVE CAMPBELL**
AP Sports Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — September call-up Mark Payton had two hits and an RBI and scored the go-ahead run for Chicago in the eighth inning in a 4-3 victory over the Minnesota Twins on Thursday that stopped an eight-game losing streak for the White Sox. Liam Hendriks pitched a perfect ninth for his 34th save for the White Sox, who moved one game ahead of the Twins for second place in the AL Central. Cleveland clinched the division last weekend. Both the White Sox and the Twins were mathematically eliminated from the wild card race on Wednesday by Seattle's win. The three-game series that the Twins and White Sox play next week in Chicago to wrap up the regular season was made irrelevant earlier this month as both teams stumbled down the stretch. The Twins lead 9-7 in the season series with the White Sox, whose losing streak had matched their season high. Nick Gordon had a two-run double for the Twins in the first inning, but dropped a lazy pop-up to second base by Payton for a two-base error in the eighth.

Payton moved up on a wild pitch before José Abreu ripped an RBI double off Caleb Thielbar (4-3) for the lead. Lucas Giolito lasted five innings with two runs allowed in his 29th start of the season for the White Sox, reducing his ERA to 5.00 — the lowest since mid-August — in what has been disappointing year for the 2019 All-Star to mirror the underachievement of the whole team. Reynaldo López (6-4) pitched the seventh for the victory. Twins starter Louie Varland finished five innings with two runs allowed. The 24-year-old, who played high school and college ball in the Twin Cities, made his fourth career start. Varland lost a 2-0 lead when fellow rookie Matt Wallner made a risky dive for a sinking line drive to right field in the third inning and missed the catch as the ball bounded past him for an RBI triple by Romy Gonzalez. The relay throw home beat Josh Harrison, but it was up the first base line and Harrison got his hand on the plate before the tag attempt by catcher Gary Sánchez. Payton followed with the tying single, his first hit and RBI with his home-

town team. The 30-year-old was born in Orland Park, Illinois, and went to St. Rita High School in Chicago. He was drafted three times, first by the Twins in 2010 and last by the New York Yankees in the seventh round in 2014 out of the University of Texas. Andrew Vaughn put the White Sox in front on a sacrifice fly against Griffin Jax, but Jimmy Lambert gave the lead up when Sánchez walked, pinch-runner Billy Hamilton stole two bases and pinch-hitter Ryan Jeffers drove him in with a bunt single.

LAST ONE

The Twins announced an attendance of 23,397, and finished their 13th year at Target Field with an official season total of 1,801,128. That's their lowest for a full schedule unaffected by the pandemic since 2001, when they drew 1,782,926 at the Metrodome. The per-game average this year of 22,236 ranks 20th in the major leagues.

TRAINER'S ROOM

White Sox: 3B Yoán Moncada was on the bench for the second straight game with a bruised right foot from the foul ball that hit him there on Tuesday, but acting manager Miguel Cairo said he expects him to play again before the end of the season.

Twins: CF Byron Buxton was in the clubhouse before the game on crutches, recovering from the arthroscopic cleanup surgery he had on his right knee on Tuesday. Buxton played in 92 games this season, tying the second most of his career. He played in 140 games in 2017.

UP NEXT

White Sox: RHP Davis Martin (2-5, 3.86 ERA) is scheduled to take the mound to begin a three-game series at San Diego on Friday. The Padres have not announced a starter yet.

Twins: RHP Joe Ryan (12-8, 3.70 ERA) pitches on Friday to start a three-game series at Detroit. LHP Tyler Alexander (4-10, 4.68 ERA) will take the mound for the Tigers. □



New York Yankees' Roger Maris watches his 61st home run of the season in the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Boston Red Sox in New York, Oct. 1, 1961.

Associated Press

Maris Jr: Bonds, McGwire illegitimate, Judge to be HR king

By **IAN HARRISON**
Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Roger Maris Jr. considers the home run feats of Barry Bonds, Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa to be illegitimate and says Aaron Judge should be recognized as the holder of the big league season standard if the New York Yankees slugger hits No. 62. "He should be revered for being the actual single-season home run champ," Maris said after Judge hit his 61st on Wednesday night to match Roger Maris' record-setting total with the Yankees in 1961. "I mean, that's really who he is if he hits 62, and I think that's what needs to happen. I think baseball needs to look at the records and I think baseball should do something." Roger Maris, who died in 1985 at age 51, broke the record of 60 set by Babe Ruth in 1927. Maris' mark stood until McGwire hit 70 for St. Louis in 1998, and that was topped by Barry Bonds' 73 for San Francisco in 2001. McGwire also hit 65 in 1999, and Sammy Sosa had seasons of 66, 64 and 63 for the Chicago Cubs from 1998-2001. McGwire admitted using steroids, while Bonds and Sosa maintained they didn't knowingly use performance-enhancing drugs. Major League Baseball began drug-testing with penalties in 2004. The younger Maris and some of his relatives were in St. Louis when McGwire hit his 62nd in 1998. "I couldn't be happier for him," Maris said at the time. Asked Wednesday whether he considers McGwire and Bonds home run totals to be illegitimate, Maris answered yes. "I do," he said. "I think most people do." Maris sees Judge as a player worthy of praise. "I can't think of anybody better that baseball can look up to than Aaron Judge," he said. Maris has attended every game since Judge hit No. 60 on Sept. 20. He plans to be in the Bronx on Friday when the Yankees open a three-game series against Baltimore and doesn't expect to wait long for another historic homer. "You can tell he's back and he's ready to go now," Maris said. "I think it will happen in New York. That's where you want it to happen, that's where I want it to happen. I think the city of New York deserves it. The fans deserve it. I think it would be great for baseball if it happens in New York." Maris had a message for Judge in their postgame meeting. "Get to New York and hit 62 and knock the top off Yankee Stadium," Maris recalled telling him. "It's going to be fun." □